



BUDGET COMMITTEE



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Senator Gregg: Democrats Using Reconciliation to Explode Government Spending

Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee and a senior member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today reacted to President Obama's announcement that Congress should use the budget reconciliation process to finalize Democrats' \$2.5 trillion health care bill.

"The partisan health care bill, crafted behind closed doors, is bad policy that leads to too much government, too much spending and too much debt. This massive expansion of government will result in trillions of new debt for our children, and a majority of Americans are opposed to it. Democrats were barely able to squeak the bill through the Senate on Christmas Eve by buying votes with backroom deals, but it's so unpopular that now they can't get it to the President's desk without using reconciliation to buy House votes on the left, and end run all objections to the bill in the Senate.

"Reconciliation, a budget process, is being abused so that Democrats can railroad Americans into more government, more spending and more debt. Trying to spruce up the bill with a sprinkling of Republican ideas is not bipartisanship; it is like putting a new rear-view mirror on an Edsel. It doesn't change the fact that the underlying bill is a failure of policy.

"Using reconciliation to enact Democrats' big-government agenda is also a failure of our responsibility to future generations, and they certainly will not thank us for putting them trillions of dollars further into debt because of this bill. I hope that my Senate colleagues think hard about that before casting a vote for a reconciliation measure, and hopefully enough of them will take the long view about what this means for our children's future quality of life."